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## **Sen. Stamas encouraged by governor's commitment to GOP vision of job creation and economic growth**

**Lansing** – Sen. Stamas said he was encouraged to hear Gov. Jennifer Granholm's commitment to work with Republicans on creating jobs and spurring Michigan's economy during her State of the State Address Tuesday night.

"It is appropriate that manufacturing was her focus," Stamas said. "We have already introduced an agenda and passed several bills directed at job retention and growth."

Senate Republicans renewed their pledge to fight for every Michigan job and said they stand ready to work with the governor to accomplish what is right for the people of Michigan.

While the nation's economic recovery is well underway, families in Michigan are still too often facing the prospect of an unemployment check instead of a regular paycheck. In 2003, Michigan's jobless rate hit a 10-year high.

The GOP vision for Michigan includes providing a job opportunity for anyone who wants to work and support their family. It includes a great education for every student, affordable health care for families and senior citizens, and an opportunity for every Michigan resident to choose their own path.

"We must create Michigan's future, not just plan for it," said Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema. "It's time to create jobs, it's time to help our economy grow – it's time to take action."

Sen. Stamas agreed, citing the example from this past fall when the Republican-led Legislature took action on its JOBS package – Job Opportunities for Business Success. Each point of the JOBS package complements the others to jumpstart Michigan's weak job market and get Michigan's residents back to work.

Stamas agrees with the governor that it is an important goal to encourage businesses to offer benefits to working families for health care benefits. Recently, steps were taken to reduce the taxes businesses pay on health care costs, encouraging more businesses to offer benefits to working families.

(More)

Additionally, Stamas shares the governor's concerns regarding education in Michigan and is pleased she agrees with Senate Republicans and will urge state colleges to hold tuition increases at or below the rate of inflation.

Sen. Stamas said some of the governor's proposals outlined in her speech have merit, but he needs to see the details.

"I'm glad she recognized and acknowledged that we cannot afford to use the General Fund to support new programs," Stamas said. "We need to be fiscally responsible."

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Editor's note: Audio remarks will be available for broadcast from the Senate Majority Communications Hotline. To access the hotline, dial (517) 373-4000, then follow the menu to Stamas' comments. Audio remarks also will be available on the web at:

[www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/audiowire/stamas/index.htm](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/audiowire/stamas/index.htm).